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The WOOL SITUATION

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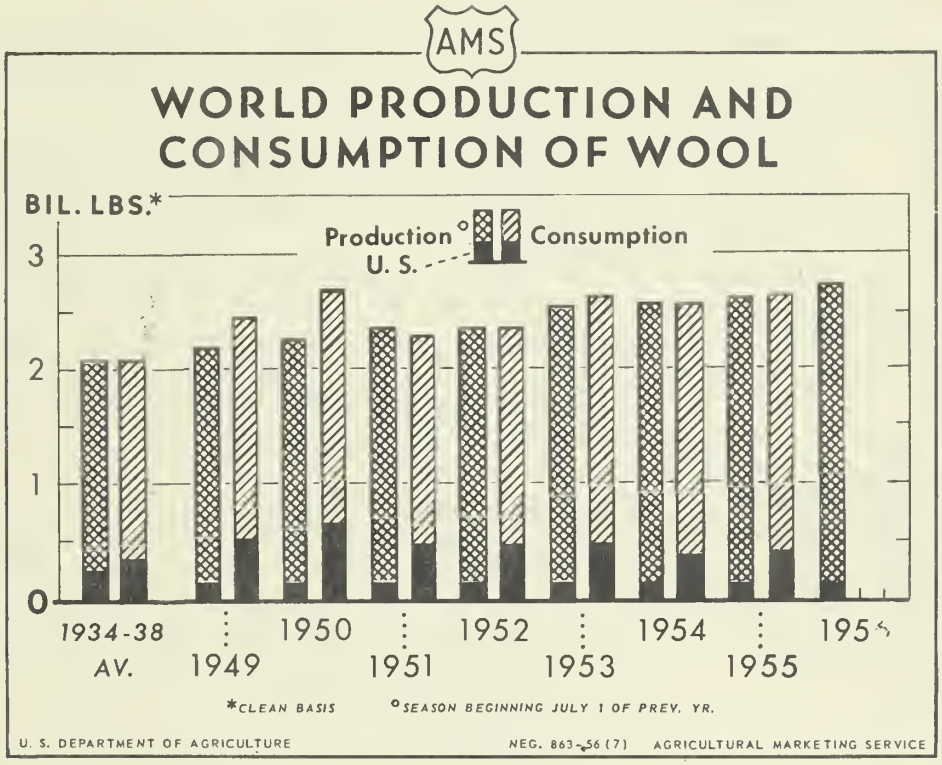

The 1955-56 world wool clip is estimated to have been about 4 percent above that of 1954-55 and about a third above pre-World War II. The increase was the ninth in succession. A further increase is expected during 1956-57.

World consumption of wool during 1955 is now estimated to have been about 3 percent above that of 1954 and to have been exceeded only by the quantities used in 1950 and 1953. Consumption early this year was up a little from a year earlier.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1955 Apr.	1955 May	1955 June	1955 July	1956 Apr.	1956 May	1956 June	1956 July	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Wool										
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	46.5	45.6	45.0	44.9	40.3	41.1	41.1	41.4	92
Parity price		59.6	59.2	59.2	59.0	60.8	61.2	61.2	61.4	104
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	78	77	76	76	66	67	67	67	
Boston, clean basis 1/	Cents per pound									
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	149.5	147.5	143.5	142.5	128.0	128.2	129.5	131.2	92
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	138.1	137.5	133.5	132.5	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.6	91
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	119.8	117.5	117.5	116.2	108.0	108.0	108.5	110.0	95
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	112.5	112.5	109.5	109.5	104.0	104.0	104.0	104.0	95
Low 1/4 blood	do.	105.0	105.0	103.0	102.5	97.5	97.5	99.4	100.0	98
Common and braid	do.	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	92.5	92.5	96.6	98.0	101
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	153.8	152.5	145.0	143.8	131.2	130.4	132.9	134.8	94
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	131.9	127.5	124.9	125.8	114.0	114.0	115.9	116.8	93
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	109.5	107.2	106.6	108.6	100.5	103.3	103.9	104.5	96
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	103.6	101.5	101.9	102.2	96.0	99.7	100.1	99.5	97
Low 1/4 blood	do.	101.1	98.5	98.5	98.5	92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5	94
Common and braid	do.	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	87.5	87.5	91.2	92.5	95
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	151.2	148.8	146.7	145.0	132.5	134.5	137.5	141.2	97
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	137.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	117.5	117.5	117.5	121.2	91
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	130.0	127.5	123.5	122.5	112.5	112.5	112.5	116.2	95
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	152.5	152.5	152.5	152.5	137.5	137.5	142.5	146.2	96
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	147.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	132.5	132.5	137.5	141.2	96
64's combing	do.	142.5	142.5	142.5	142.5	127.5	127.5	132.5	136.2	96
58's, 60's combing	do.	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	122.5	122.5	127.5	131.2	103
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	120.5	120.5	120.5	120.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	85
1's (56's)	do.	112.0	112.0	113.1	117.5	98.5	98.5	98.5	98.5	84
2's (50's)	do.	105.5	105.5	106.9	112.5	95.5	95.5	95.5	95.5	85
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	94.5	94.5	95.4	99.0	91.0	91.0	91.0	91.0	92
4's (44's)	do.	94.5	94.5	95.4	99.0	88.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	89
5's (40's)	do.	94.5	94.5	94.7	95.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	93
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 2/	do.	33.4	33.7	33.8	33.7	35.5	35.5	35.5	34.4	102
Man-made synthetic staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 3/	do.	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	4/	94
Acetate, 5 denier 3/	do.	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	4/	86
Nylon, 3 denier 5/	do.	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	83
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	135.0	135.0	135.0	135.0	84
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	83
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 5/	do.	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	80
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 5/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	82
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 5/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

1/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market.
2/ From Cotton Price Statistics.
3/ From Textile Organon.
4/ Not available.
5/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, August 7, 1956

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SUMMARY

With a strengthening of world demand relative to available supplies, prices of wool began to advance at about the time of the opening of the 1956 domestic wool marketing season in April. At the latest auctions of British Dominion wools in July, prices of merinos were from 10 to 15 percent higher than they were in late March; they ranged from about the same as, to about 5 percent higher than prices at the final auctions of the 1954-55 season. Prices of crossbreds ranged from about the same as, to about 7 percent above those in late March; but compared with a year earlier, some were down as much as 10 percent.

In general, price advances in domestic markets during the early months of the current marketing season were considerably less than those abroad. Boston quotations for most domestic descriptions early in August were less than 5 percent above those of early April. The mid-month average of prices

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1955 Mar.	1955 Apr.	1955 May	1955 June	1956 Mar.	1956 Apr.	1956 May	1956 June 1/	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds									
Dutiable 2/	do.	12.1	10.7	11.2	9.5	13.4	10.4	13.2		118
60's and finer	do.	6.8	6.3	7.1	4.9	6.7	5.1	7.9		111
56's - 60's	do.	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.6		107
50's - 56's	do.	1.3	1.1	.8	1.1	1.6	1.0	1.2		150
44's - 50's	do.	.5	.2	.3	.3	.7	.3	.3		100
40's - 44's	do.	.6	.4	.3	.5	.4	.6	.5		167
Not finer than 40's	do.	1.1	.8	.9	.7	1.8	1.3	1.5		167
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.2	.1	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2		67
Duty-free	do.	13.9	12.1	11.9	12.7	14.7	11.8	9.5		80
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	8.5	6.6	6.5	7.2	5.5	4.3	4.4		68
Not finer than 40's	do.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	9.2	7.5	5.1		94
Accumulated since January 1										
Dutiable 2/	do.	31.9	42.7	53.8	63.3	37.6	48.0	61.2		114
60's and finer	do.	18.9	25.2	32.3	37.2	20.0	25.1	33.0		102
56's - 60's	do.	4.0	5.9	7.4	9.1	5.3	7.1	8.7		118
50's - 56's	do.	2.7	3.9	4.6	5.7	4.0	5.0	6.2		135
44's - 50's	do.	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.9	1.3	1.7	2.0		125
40's - 44's	do.	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.6	1.4	2.0	2.5		119
Not finer than 40's	do.	3.0	3.8	4.6	5.3	4.8	6.1	7.6		165
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.5	.6	.9	1.1	.7	.9	1.1		122
Duty-free	do.	30.1	42.2	54.1	66.8	48.6	60.4	69.9		129
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	17.7	24.3	30.8	38.0	17.6	21.8	26.2		85
Not finer than 40's	do.	12.4	17.9	23.3	28.8	31.0	38.6	43.7		188
Imports for consumption, actual weight										
Dutiable	do.	18.3	16.4	16.9	13.9	20.2	15.2	19.6		116
Duty-free	do.	19.1	17.1	16.4	17.4	20.0	16.0	12.5		76
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/										
Per week, during month 4/										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	5,443	5,696	5,877	5,416	5,885	6,254	6,168	5,614	104
60's and finer	do.	2,953	3,080	3,158	2,900	3,273	3,353	3,310	3,079	106
50's up to 60's	do.	1,877	1,954	1,980	1,937	1,994	2,195	2,220	2,000	103
48's and coarser	do.	613	662	739	579	618	706	638	535	92
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	2,541	2,555	2,585	2,251	2,890	3,028	2,856	2,360	105
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	71.5	94.3	117.8	144.9	80.0	105.0	129.7	157.7	109
60's and finer	do.	38.9	51.2	63.8	78.3	44.0	57.4	70.7	86.0	110
50's up to 60's	do.	24.7	32.5	40.4	50.1	27.3	36.1	45.0	55.0	110
48's and coarser	do.	7.9	10.6	13.6	16.5	8.7	11.5	14.0	16.7	101
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	33.1	43.3	53.6	64.9	40.7	52.8	64.2	76.0	117
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards									
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel fabrics	do.	69.2				78.1				113
Government orders	do.	1.1				.8				73
Men's and boys' wear	do.	36.5				38.3				105
Women's and children's wear	do.	31.6				39.0				123
Non-apparel fabrics	do.	4.1				3.5				85
Blanketing	do.	2.8				2.2				79
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.	1.3				1.3				100
Total woven fabrics	do.	73.3				81.6				111

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning systems and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks per quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.
Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

received by growers for shorn wool advanced less than 3 percent between March and July. So far this season, averages have ranged from 40.3 cents per pound, grease basis, for April, when the average was 6.2 cents below a year earlier, to 41.4 cents for July, when it was 3.5 cents below a year earlier. Trade reports suggest that the bulk of the clip has passed out of growers' hands.

The incentive level for shorn wool for the current marketing season is 62 cents per pound, grease basis, the same as for the 1955 season. Payments are now being made under the 1955 program with the shorn wool payment to the individual producer equivalent to 44.9 percent of his dollar return from the sale of shorn wool during the 1955 marketing year. The rate of payment is the amount needed to bring the average return per pound received by all producers (42.8 cents) up to the incentive level.

Activity in the domestic wool textile industry early this year was at a relatively high rate compared with the last two years. Mill use of apparel wool during the first 6 months of 1956 was almost a tenth above 1955 and almost a fifth above 1954. Consumption during April-June, the first three months of the current marketing season, was about 12 percent above a year earlier. But the rate during June, the third month of the season and the latest for which information is available, was less than 4 percent above a year earlier. Use of carpet wool early this year was up a fifth over 1955 and about a third over 1954.

Stocks of apparel wool in the United States at the beginning of the current marketing season are reported about 9 percent lower than a year earlier. A decline of 16 percent in holdings of manufacturers and dealers more than offset an increase in CCC holdings. The increase in CCC holdings between April 1, 1955, and April 1, 1956, is due to the fact that the take-over under the 1954 loan program took place in May 1955. Stocks of carpet wool were up somewhat from a year earlier.

Imports of both dutiable and duty-free wools early this year were above a year earlier. Imports of dutiable wools during January-May were 14 percent above a year earlier. During April-May they were up about 8 percent relative to a year earlier.

Domestic production of wool this year is not expected to be greatly different from last year. Shorn wool production has been estimated at 232 million pounds, grease basis, probably equivalent to about 102 million pounds, clean, and about 1 percent below last year's clip.

World consumption during the first quarter of 1956 is estimated to have been about 10 percent above a year earlier. The total for last year is now estimated to have been about 3 percent above 1954 consumption. This is slightly above estimated 1954-55 production, but about 3 percent below estimated 1955-56 production. An increase of almost 4 percent in production is now forecast for 1956-57.

SURVEY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Prices in Foreign Markets Advanced Toward Close of Br. Dominion Season

Wool prices in foreign markets advanced from late March until near the close of the 1955-56 selling season in Australia. Prices declined only slightly with the settlement of the Australian shearers' strike late in June. Prices for merino wools at the July auctions in Australia were from 10 to 15 percent higher than they were in late March and ranged from about the same as, to about 5 percent higher than at the closing 1954-55 auctions. Prices of some crossbreds ranged up to about 7 percent above prices in late March, but as much as 10 percent below the closing prices of the previous season.

With world supplies of wool larger and demand easier, prices of wool in world markets began to decline with the opening of the 1954-55 British Dominion marketing season in late August 1954. With the exception of temporary interruptions, the decline extended to the end of the season when prices ranged from 10 to 20 percent below a year earlier. With prospects for a further increase in world supplies for the 1955-56 season, a further drop in prices took place with the opening of that season, bringing prices of merinos down 25 to 30 percent and of crossbreds from 15 to 20 percent below levels that prevailed before the decline, which began in 1954. Prices then fluctuated within unusually narrow limits until late March 1956. The rise in prices after late March was a reflection of a strengthening of world demand relative to available supplies. An uncertain supply outlook associated with the shearers' strike in Australia appears to have been a factor. As of July, the net recovery from the low point in the decline was in the neighborhood of a third for merinos but somewhat less than that for crossbreds (table 1).

Boston Prices Lag Prices Abroad

In general, prices of wool in domestic markets have reflected only part of the recent advances in wool prices in foreign markets. Prices of some descriptions advanced a little during January-February, but the advances were offset by declines during the following month. Quotations have advanced a little since then, but as of early August they ranged up to as much as 10 percent below a year earlier (table 2).

Growers' Prices Below Year Earlier

The mid-month average of prices received by growers for shorn wool advanced a little during the early part of the 1956 marketing season. The rise, which was considerably less than the advance in prices abroad, was from an average of 40.3 cents per pound, grease basis, at mid-April, the first month of the current season, to 41.4 cents at mid-July. The averages ranged from 13 percent below a year earlier at mid-April to 8 percent below at mid-July. Trade reports suggest that the bulk of the clip passed out of growers' hands during these months.

Table 1 .- Price per pound of fleece wools at the London auctions, clean basis (Bradford yield), 1954-56

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine cross-bred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	58's-60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1954						
January 22	183.9	146.5	105.4	87.9	83.2	82.0
January 29	183.9	142.9	105.4	89.0	83.2	83.2
February 26	175.9	144.2	109.0	92.6	86.8	84.4
March 5	173.5	140.7	110.2	92.6	89.1	86.8
April 2	179.5	146.7	116.2	99.7	96.2	93.9
April 9	179.6	146.7	116.2	98.6	95.1	92.7
May 14	182.1	152.7	119.8	102.2	97.5	95.1
May 21	182.1	152.7	119.8	103.4	98.7	96.3
July 9	173.8	152.6	119.8	101.0	96.3	93.9
July 16	173.8	152.6	119.8	102.1	97.4	95.1
September 10	164.9	140.3	---	98.2	91.2	90.0
September 17	172.7	144.7	---	100.4	94.5	92.2
November 26	155.7	122.0	---	87.2	83.7	81.3
December 10	156.9	119.7	104.6	90.6	86.0	83.7
1955						
January 14	150.9	119.5	104.4	89.4	84.7	83.6
January 21	155.5	120.7	106.8	91.7	87.0	84.7
February 18	155.3	121.7	110.1	93.9	89.3	88.1
February 25	155.6	124.3	110.3	95.2	91.8	90.6
March 25	153.6	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
April 1	149.0	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
May 13	149.2	124.7	110.7	95.6	90.9	89.7
May 20	148.8	124.4	110.4	96.5	91.8	90.7
July 15	141.5	116.0	---	92.8	88.1	87.0
July 22	133.4	113.6	---	91.6	87.0	85.8
September 9	127.6	109.1	98.6	83.5	81.2	78.9
September 22	130.0	109.1	---	84.7	82.4	80.1
October 28	134.0	111.9	97.9	88.6	85.1	82.7
November 4	134.3	112.1	---	89.9	86.4	84.1
December 2	135.4	112.1	---	91.1	88.7	87.6
December 9	135.4	113.2	---	92.2	89.9	88.7
1956						
January 20	135.7	111.2	94.8	90.1	87.8	87.3
January 27	136.9	111.1	92.4	87.7	85.4	85.4
March 2	138.0	107.6	---	84.2	81.9	80.7
March 15	138.0	105.2	92.4	83.0	80.7	80.7
April 20	140.4	115.9	99.5	87.8	85.4	85.4
April 27	142.6	115.7	99.4	87.7	85.3	85.3
June 1	151.8	---	101.6	---	---	86.4
June 8	151.9	122.7	101.6	88.8	86.5	86.5
July 13	151.4	128.1	---	88.5	86.2	86.2
July 20	153.7	---	---	---	---	86.2

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

Table 2.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended August 3, 1956 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1955 week ended Aug. 5	1956 week ended Apr. 6	1956 week ended Aug. 3	Percentage change week ended Aug. 3 from Average 1947-49	Percentage change week ended Aug. 3 from Aug. 5 1955	Percentage change week ended Aug. 3 from Apr. 6 1956
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	142.5	128.0	132.5	-12.7	-7.0	+3.5
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	132.5	120.0	122.5	-10.6	-7.6	+2.1
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	114.5	108.0	110.0	+.8	-3.9	+1.9
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	109.5	104.0	104.0	+4.0	-5.0	.0
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	102.5	97.5	100.0	+11.2	-2.4	+2.6
Common and braid	83.5	97.5	92.5	98.0	+17.4	+.5	+5.9
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	142.5	132.5	136.5	-11.7	-4.2	+3.0
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	125.5	114.0	117.5	-10.7	-6.4	+3.1
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	107.5	100.0	104.5	+1.3	-2.8	+4.5
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	100.5	95.5	99.0	+2.1	-1.5	+3.7
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	98.5	92.5	92.5	+18.0	-6.1	0
Common and braid	73.4	97.5	87.5	92.5	+26.0	-5.1	+5.7
Original bag							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	142.5	132.5	142.5	-5.6	0	+7.5
Eight months (1 inch and over)	121.0	132.5	117.5	122.5	+1.2	-7.6	+4.3
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	122.5	112.5	117.5	+6.0	-4.1	+4.4

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

In contrast with developments early this season, in 1955 the mid-month average trended downward from April to January, then advanced slightly during the final 2 months. The drop during the early part of the season was a continuation of a decline that started about midway through the 1954 marketing season. The average for the entire season has been estimated at 42.8 cents, with the averages for individual months ranging between a high of 46.5 cents for April to a low of 37.8 cents for January. It compares with an average of 53.2 cents for the 1954 season. The lower average last season reflects both (1) the general decline in wool prices in world markets after mid-1954 and (2) the effect of support for domestic producers by direct Government payments in 1955 instead of indirectly through price support as in 1954.

The incentive or support level under the 1955 program was 62 cents, about 8.8 cents or 16.5 percent higher than the average loan rate under the 1954 program. The incentive level for the current (1956) program also has been established at 62 cents. Support again is provided through Government payments to be made to producers after the close of the season.

Payments Under 1955 Program at 44.9 Percent of Returns

Shorn wool payments now being made to individual producers under the 1955 program are equivalent to 44.9 percent of their dollar returns from the sale of shorn wool during the 1955 marketing year. The payment rate of 44.9 percent brings the average return per pound received by all producers (42.8 cents) up to the incentive level of 62 cents.

The payment rate on lambs (pulled wool compensating payments) is 77 cents per hundredweight of live animal sold for slaughter. Under the program, the wool per hundred pounds of live animal (assumed to be 5 pounds for payment purposes) is considered equal in value to 4 pounds of shorn wool. Normally lamb's wool is coarser in grade and shorter in staple than shorn wool.

Shorn Wool Production Down Slightly This Year

Domestic shorn wool production this year is estimated at about 232 million pounds, grease basis, 1 percent less than was shorn last year (table 3). The decline reflects 1 percent fewer sheep shorn than last year. The number shorn this year was 27.1 million head. The average weight per fleece, 8.54 pounds, was the same as the record established last year.

The quantity of wool shorn in the "Native" or "fleece" wool States is estimated at 69.2 million pounds, about 4 percent above 1955. The number of sheep shorn was 8.9 million head, 3 percent more than last year. The average weight per fleece was 7.75 pounds, compared with 7.71 pounds last year.

Shorn wool production in the 13 Western sheep States is estimated at 162.5 million pounds, 2 percent less than in 1955. The decline this year reflects a drop of 2 percent in the number of sheep shorn. The number shorn

Table 3.- Number of sheep and lambs shorn, weight per fleece, shorn wool production, and price per pound received by farmers, United States, 1940-56

Year	Sheep and lambs shorn 1/	Weight per fleece 2/	Shorn wool production	Price per pound 3/
	Thousands	Pounds	Thousand pounds	Cents
1940	46,313	8.03	372,014	28.4
1941	47,722	8.12	387,520	35.5
1942	49,287	7.88	388,297	40.1
1943	47,892	7.91	378,843	41.6
1944	43,165	7.84	338,318	42.3
1945	38,763	7.95	307,976	41.9
1946	34,647	8.11	280,908	42.3
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425	42.0
1948	28,649	8.09	231,770	49.2
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899	49.4
1950	26,380	8.22	216,944	62.1
1951	27,347	8.34	228,091	97.1
1952	28,051	8.32	233,309	54.1
1953	27,845	8.34	232,258	54.9
1954	27,692	8.52	235,807	53.2
1955	37,327	8.54	233,370	42.8
1956	27,125	8.54	231,754	---

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.

2/ For Texas and California the weight per fleece is the amount of wool shorn per sheep and lamb during the year.

3/ Average prices for 1943 and later years are for the marketing season April-March; average prices for earlier years relate to the calendar year.

Table 4.- Production of wool, grease basis, in specified countries and world, 1949-56

Continent and country	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 1/	1956 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
North America								
Canada	9.8	9.5	6.9	7.7	8.6	8.5	9.0	9.0
United States	248.5	249.3	254.0	266.9	274.5	279.3	275.0	---
Estimated total 2/	270.5	271.2	272.5	290.0	295.0	295.0	295.0	295.0
Europe								
United Kingdom	88.0	89.0	91.8	102.0	105.0	108.0	100.0	105.0
Eire	12.0	13.7	14.0	15.4	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.0
France	33.9	35.0	40.0	41.9	46.3	48.5	48.5	48.5
Spain	82.0	90.0	90.0	93.0	94.0	88.2	79.4	88.2
Portugal	17.0	21.2	22.0	22.0	22.5	22.7	22.7	23.0
Italy	35.3	35.0	35.5	35.0	33.7	32.8	30.9	30.9
Germany (Western)	19.2	15.3	15.4	14.8	12.8	11.9	11.0	10.5
Estimated total 2/ 3/	448.3	464.8	476.3	495.0	505.0	510.0	495.0	510.0
Asia								
Iran	24.7	32.6	34.2	36.6	37.5	38.6	40.8	39.7
Iraq	26.7	28.7	30.7	32.0	32.5	33.0	33.5	33.5
Syria	10.0	13.0	15.0	19.6	20.3	20.5	19.4	20.0
Turkey	70.9	67.2	72.9	77.9	81.6	79.7	81.0	81.6
India	46.2	50.5	52.0	51.0	72.0	70.0	72.0	74.0
Pakistan	27.0	27.8	27.2	30.0	30.0	28.0	30.0	30.0
Estimated total 2/	346.4	362.3	374.8	390.0	440.0	440.0	450.0	460.0
South America								
Argentina	415.0	430.0	420.0	407.0	400.0	365.0	357.0	395.0
Brazil	48.5	47.4	51.8	50.7	52.5	52.0	53.0	54.0
Chile	46.3	41.9	41.9	44.1	39.7	38.6	39.0	39.0
Peru	18.7	19.2	19.6	19.8	20.1	20.3	20.0	20.0
Uruguay	163.3	185.0	187.4	189.8	202.5	198.4	196.2	198.0
Estimated total 2/	707.7	739.5	736.5	730.0	730.0	690.0	685.0	725.0
Africa								
Algeria	15.6	19.6	22.8	28.0	29.0	26.0	26.0	26.0
French Morocco	30.0	33.1	35.3	36.0	31.5	36.4	36.0	36.0
Tunisia	8.0	11.0	12.0	11.0	12.3	11.8	12.0	12.0
Union of South Africa	217.5	227.5	240.0	256.8	279.0	300.0	307.0	315.0
Estimated total 2/	283.0	304.6	323.5	345.0	370.0	390.0	400.0	405.0
Oceania								
Australia	1,110.0	1.117.5	1,080.0	1,281.1	1,244.0	1,288.0	1,400.0	1,480.0
New Zealand	390.0	390.0	406.7	418.0	426.0	455.0	460.0	470.0
Estimated total 2/	1,500.1	1,507.6	1,486.8	1,700.0	1,670.0	1,745.0	1,860.0	1,950.0
Estimated world total 4/	3,890.0	4,000.0	4,050.0	4,350.0	4,465.0	4,520.0	4,685.0	4,865.0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes other countries not shown in table. 3/ Excludes U. S. S. R. 4/ Rounded to tens of millions.

Compiled from reports of the Foreign Agricultural Service and of Agricultural Estimates Division, A. M. S.

this year was 18.2 million head. The average fleece weight, 8.93 pounds, compares with 8.92 pounds in 1955. Production increased in South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada, but declined in all of the other Western sheep States. Production of shorn wool in Texas, which accounted for 41.9 million pounds or 18 percent of the total for the United States, was 7 percent lower than last year.

World Wool Production Continues to Increase

The first Foreign Agricultural Service estimate of 1956 world production is 4,865 million pounds, grease basis (table 4). The 1956 estimate includes the 1956 clips of producing countries in the Northern Hemisphere and the prospective 1956-57 clips of Southern Hemisphere countries.

The estimate for 1956 is almost 4 percent higher than the revised estimate of 4,685 million pounds for 1955. The substantial upward revision in the estimate for 1955 results largely from upward revisions in production in Australia, India, China, and the U.S.S.R.

Foreign Agricultural Service estimates that the 1956 world total is equivalent to about 2,840 million pounds, clean. Output for 1955 was equivalent to about 2,715 million pounds, clean basis.

A further increase is indicated for each of the three British Dominions - Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa. In Argentina a sharp increase is expected to reverse the downward trend of recent years. Not much change is expected in Uruguay. Indications are that production in the U.S.S.R. and China will continue to increase this year.

1955-56 Exports from Southern Hemisphere Above 1954-55

Larger exports of wool from the 5 major surplus-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere - Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, and Uruguay - are indicated for 1955-56 (table 5). For the months for which information is available, exports were above a year earlier for each of the 5 countries. Increases range from 4 percent for the Union of South Africa to 161 percent for Uruguay. Larger exports were made possible by increased production during 1955-56 in Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa. The larger exports from Argentina and Uruguay include wool carried over from the 1954-55 season.

U. S. Imports of Dutiable Wool Up for Second Year

United States imports of dutiable wool for consumption (entries for immediate consumption plus withdrawals from bonded warehouses for consumption) during January-May amounted to 91.2 million pounds, actual weight, or 61.2 million pounds, clean content. The clean content total was 14 percent above that of 1955 and 35 percent above 1954.

Table 5.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1953-54, 1954-55, and 1955-56 seasons 1/

Exporting country	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Australia 2/	1,002	942	1,058
New Zealand 3/	309	298	329
Union of South Africa 2/	217	234	244
Argentina 3/	95	125	163
Uruguay 2/	69	52	136

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.
2/ Through May. 3/ Through April.
Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Most of the increase early this year was in wools coarser than 60's. The increase for 60's and finer wools was less than 3 percent.

Imports of Duty-free Wool Also Up

Imports of duty-free wools for consumption during January-May totaled 96.8 million pounds, actual weight, or 69.9 million pounds, clean content. The 1956 January-May clean content total was 29 percent greater than that of last year, 63 percent above early 1954, and the highest January-May total since 1950. The increase in imports last year and early this year reflects a build-up of stocks between early 1955 and the end of the first quarter of this year as well as an increase in mill use.

During each month of the first quarter they were larger than a year earlier; the total exceeded 1955 by 61 percent. For April-May the total was 11 percent lower than last year. Whereas early this year the monthly rate trended downward, early last year it trended upward.

April Stocks of Apparel Wool Below Year Earlier

The Bureau of the Census reports that stocks of apparel wool in the United States on April 1 were 146.4 million pounds, scoured basis (table 6). The total includes stocks held on consignment, stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation, stocks held in bond and stocks held by CCC. It excludes wool held for the account of growers except that held on consignment for growers.

Table 6.- Commercial stocks of apparel wool, scoured basis, April 1, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, 1935-39 average, 1946-56 1/

Year	Held by						Total reported stocks	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks held by 2/		
	Manufacturers			Dealers and U. S. Government				Manufacturers	Dealers and U. S. Government	Total
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total				
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number	Number
1935-39 average	36,118	3/19,891	3/56,009	40,470	3/12,696	3/53,166	3/109,175	10.7	10.1	20.8
1946	16,998	122,225	139,223	214,925	67,230	282,155	421,378	12.1	24.5	36.6
1947	32,200	111,995	144,195	212,379	47,654	260,033	404,228	12.4	22.4	34.8
1948	52,720	94,633	147,353	163,451	35,648	199,099	346,452	14.1	19.0	33.1
1949	37,945	57,712	95,657	86,504	17,160	103,664	199,321	14.7	15.9	30.6
1950	36,300	54,824	91,124	36,053	16,058	52,111	143,235	10.8	6.2	17.0
1951	28,510	83,360	111,870	7,042	11,292	18,334	130,204	14.7	2.4	17.1
1952	20,848	54,795	75,643	34,836	20,352	55,188	130,831	12.6	9.2	21.8
1953	30,643	49,822	80,465	68,158	14,477	82,635	163,100	10.9	11.1	22.0
1954	24,323	34,144	58,467	80,103	11,126	91,229	149,696	12.1	18.9	31.0
1955	27,442	32,686	60,128	87,561	11,982	99,543	159,671	10.9	18.1	29.0
1956 4/	30,461	28,926	59,387	76,372	10,674	87,046	146,433	9.7	14.1	23.8

1/ Data are for reporting dates nearest April 1. Dates of reports range from March 26 to April 4. Includes stocks held on consignment, stocks held in bond, and stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation, but excludes wool held by the Commodity Credit Corporation for the Department of Defense (1951 and 1952) and wool held for the account of domestic growers except that held on consignment for growers. 2/ Stocks compared with January-March mill consumption. 3/ Includes a small quantity of wool afloat. 4/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census and information furnished by Defense Supplies Corporation.

The April 1956 total was about 13 million pounds, 9 percent, lower than a year earlier. It consisted of 107 million pounds of domestic wool and 39 million pounds of foreign wool. Holdings of foreign wools were down about 5 million pounds, 11 percent, from a year earlier. Stocks of domestic wools were about 8 million pounds, 7 percent, below those early in 1955. CCC operations indicate that of the domestic holdings, roughly 58 million pounds, scoured basis, were held by CCC, about 4 million pounds more than a year earlier. The increase is due to the fact that takeover under the 1954 program which took place in May 1955 exceeded disposals during the 1955 season.

Manufacturers held about 59 million pounds, or 41 percent of the total. In the Census tabulation CCC holdings are classed with dealers' holdings; hence, the difference between the Census figure and the estimate of CCC holdings gives an approximation to dealers' private holdings of about 29 million pounds, about 11 million foreign and 18 million domestic.

Total holdings on April 1 were equivalent to consumption of about 24 weeks at the then current rate. Holdings other than CCC represented consumption of around 14 weeks, about 5 weeks less than a year earlier. The reduction reflects both the lower stocks and higher rate of consumption this year relative to early 1955.

CCC Sales Pick Up

In July, the entire monthly quota of $6\frac{1}{4}$ million pounds, actual weight, was sold during the first three weeks of the month. The July sales brought total sales under the competitive bid program since last November to 44.9 million pounds. About 102 million pounds, actual weight, remained in the CCC inventory August 1. As of that date, holdings were distributed among 58 classes, a reduction of 117 from the number in the CCC catalog when the program went into effect. Of these, 18 account for more than 97 percent of the wool in the inventory.

During each of the first 4 months of the program the full monthly quota was sold. Less than the maximum quantity was sold during each month during March-June.

April Stocks of Carpet Wool Up Substantially from Year Earlier

The Bureau of the Census reports that dealers and spinners in the United States held 42.5 million pounds, scoured basis, of carpet wool at the end of the first quarter (table 7). The quantity held was 13 million pounds, 46 percent larger than that of early 1955. Both spinners' and dealers' holdings were larger than a year earlier. Ratio of holdings to rate of consumption was also up.

By mid-year, stocks had been reduced a little to 40.0 million pounds. Spinners held 77 percent of the total.

Table 7.- Commercial stocks of carpet wool, scoured basis, April 1, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, 1935-39 average, 1946-56 1/

Year	Held by		Total reported stocks	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks held by 2/		
	Dealers	Manufacturers		Dealers	Manufacturers	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number	Number
1935-39 average 3/	3,249	28,642	31,891	1.7	15.2	16.9
1946	7,918	62,216	70,134	3.4	26.6	30.0
1947	12,297	81,207	93,504	3.9	25.7	29.6
1948	14,727	68,001	82,728	3.7	17.1	20.8
1949	12,560	49,432	61,992	3.2	12.5	15.7
1950	5,298	49,207	54,505	1.3	12.4	13.7
1951	4,442	40,542	44,984	1.3	12.0	13.3
1952	6,214	27,824	34,038	2.6	11.7	14.3
1953	8,596	33,306	41,902	2.8	10.7	13.5
1954	4,578	27,399	31,977	1.9	11.1	13.0
1955	2,740	26,430	29,170	1.1	10.5	11.6
1956 4/	7,576	34,904	42,480	2.4	11.1	13.5

1/ Data are for reporting dates nearest April 1. Includes stocks held on consignment and stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation.

2/ Stocks compared with January-March mill consumption.

3/ Includes a small quantity of wool afloat.

4/ Preliminary.
Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Mill Use of Apparel Wool Continues Above 1955

United States woolen and worsted mills used almost 158 million pounds, scoured basis, of apparel wool during January-June this year, about 9 percent above a year earlier and 16 percent above early 1954. The average weekly rate of consumption was above a year earlier each month for 10 successive months (table 8). The rate for June, the latest month for which information is available, was a little less than 4 percent above that of a year earlier.

The increase in activity in worsted mills was somewhat greater than that in woolen mills. Production of top and noil (consumption on the worsted system) was up 15 percent while the quantity of raw wool used in woolen spinning was up only 4 percent. The worsted system accounted for a little over 50 percent of the reported total early this year compared with a little less than 48 percent early last year, the lowest of record back to 1918 (table 9). Until recent years, the worsted system usually accounted for well over three-fifths of the total used. For example, the average for 1946-51 was almost 63 percent. The current shift in demand from woolens back to worsteds for some items began to show up in mill use late last year.

Wools 60's and finer accounted for 54.6 percent of the total used by the two systems early this year (table 10). This was about one-half of one percent above the proportion early last year. The increase this year, although slight, was the third in a row since the postwar low, 50.0 percent, was reached in 1953. Historically, the 60's and finer proportion on the worsted system has always been considerably higher than that on the woolen. For example, it was 71.4 percent this year while that for the woolen was only 37.7 percent. The proportions last year were 70.4 percent and 39.3 percent, respectively.

Wool accounts for a much larger proportion of the fiber used in combing than it does in woolen spinning. Early this year it accounted for 88.6 percent of the tops and noils combed compared with 87.1 percent last year. The bulk of the remainder consists of man-made fiber and mohair. Production of man-made top and noil early this year was up 6 percent, considerably less percentagewise than wool. Almost three-fourths of this man-made top and noil consisted of rayon and acetate. The Bureau of the Census this year began to collect information on man-made tow converted to top without combing. The quantity of man-made tops so produced during January-June was over $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the quantity produced by combing. Man-made fiber other than rayon and acetate accounted for 85 percent of the total.

Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep accounted for 40.8 percent of the fiber used in woolen spinning. Other fiber, including other wool (tops, noils, etc.), reused wool, reprocessed wool, man-made fiber, etc., accounted for the rest. The wool of the sheep proportion last year was 42.3 percent. The use of man-made fiber was up 10.9 percent, somewhat more, percentagewise, than use of wool.

Table 8.- Average weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-56

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,016	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,652	4,916	4,894	5,476	5,851	5,570	5,271	5,926	4,881	4,962	4,685	4,520
Carpet	2,514	2,500	2,389	2,346	2,093	1,793	1,370	2,296	2,300	2,365	2,274	2,214
Total	7,166	7,416	7,283	7,822	7,944	7,363	6,641	8,222	7,181	7,327	6,959	6,734
1955												
Apparel	5,350	5,726	5,444	5,696	5,877	5,416	5,181	5,797	5,188	5,752	5,674	5,198
Carpet	2,546	2,540	2,541	2,555	2,585	2,251	1,655	2,629	2,650	2,976	2,893	2,775
Total	7,896	8,266	7,985	8,251	8,462	7,667	6,836	8,426	7,838	8,728	8,567	7,973
1956												
Apparel	6,239	6,398	5,885	6,254	6,168	5,614						
Carpet	3,213	3,350	2,890	3,028	2,856	2,360						
Total	9,452	9,748	8,775	9,282	9,024	7,974						

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 9.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, January-June 1947-56

System	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Worsted	63.5	66.2	59.2	67.3	63.9	52.7	58.8	53.8	47.6	50.2
Woolen	36.5	33.8	40.8	32.7	36.1	47.3	41.2	46.2	52.4	49.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 10.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, January-June 1947-56

Grade	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	60.6	63.8	54.2	56.8	58.0	53.6	50.0	52.6	54.1	54.6
50's and up to 60's	26.2	25.5	35.0	33.7	32.4	34.0	36.7	33.3	34.6	34.9
48's and coarser	13.2	10.7	10.8	9.5	9.6	12.4	13.3	14.1	11.3	10.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Mill Use of Carpet Wool Up for Second Year

United States woolen mills used 76.0 million pounds, scoured basis, of carpet wool during January-June of this year. The quantity consumed was 17 percent above that of early 1955 and 29 percent above that of early 1954. The average weekly rate has been above a year earlier each month since September 1954. The rate for June was about 5 percent above that of June 1955.

About 74 percent of the fiber used in the spinning of carpet yarn on the woolen system consisted of wool of the sheep (table 11). The percentage early last year was 68. Fourteen percent less man-made fiber was used this year. Man-made fiber represented about 16 percent of the fiber used this year compared with 21 percent last year.

The Carpet Institute, Incorporated, estimates that 60.5 million square yards of woven wool and blended carpets and rugs were produced last year (table 12). This was an increase of about 5 million yards over 1954 production, but except for the 1954 quantity it was the lowest since 1950. A major factor in the lower level of production of woven floor coverings in recent years has been the rapid expansion in output of the tufted product (table 13). The fact that wool now accounts for a smaller proportion of the fiber used in woven carpets and rugs and that wool has not been an important fiber in tufting are major factors in the lower level of mill use of carpet wool in recent years (table 14). Larger imports of carpets and rugs have also been a factor.

World Wool Consumption Increases

World consumption of wool during the first quarter of 1956 is estimated by the Commonwealth Economic Committee to have been about 10 percent above a year earlier. Their estimate is based on information for 11 of the major consuming countries of the world. Changes from a year earlier in the rate of wool use ranged from a decline of 6 percent in Belgium to an increase of 28 percent in Japan.

Mill use of materials other than virgin wool by the wool textile industries of these countries was up 7 percent from a year earlier.

The CEC recently published revised estimates of world consumption for the postwar years (table 15). These revised figures indicate world consumption last year at 2,620 million clean pounds, 3 percent above 1954 and about 0.5 percent over their estimate of production in 1954-55. It is about 4 percent below the CEC estimate of 1955-56 production. A major factor in the higher level of consumption of wool after 1954 has been the lower level of wool prices.

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-56

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.5
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.8
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	72.8	74.8	76.1	74.9	74.2	71.5	69.7	71.3	73.2	69.7	71.7	71.7	72.8
1955	67.3	67.3	67.1	68.5	72.6	68.5	69.2	70.3	71.9	70.9	70.8	73.1	69.8
1956	74.1	74.2	76.3	72.1	73.6	74.5							
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	3.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	3.0	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.1
1955	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.4	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9
1956	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.6							
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	5.9
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.4	7.5	8.3	6.8	7.4	9.1	7.9	8.9	9.1	7.7	7.7	8.1	8.0
1955	9.1	8.6	9.8	7.9	6.2	6.3	6.9	6.2	7.7	8.0	7.8	8.2	7.8
1956	6.7	7.0	6.3	8.3	8.6	6.6							
Man-made fiber 2/													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.8	14.8	12.5	14.9	15.3	16.6	19.1	17.3	15.3	18.2	17.4	17.4	16.2
1955	21.4	21.7	20.6	20.7	18.5	22.1	19.5	20.4	16.6	17.6	18.0	15.9	19.3
1956	17.0	16.4	14.5	17.1	15.1	16.5							
Other fiber 2/													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.2
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	.9	.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	.9	1.1	1.1
1954	.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	.8	.6	.3	.8	.3	1.9	1.0	.8	.9
1955	.8	.8	.8	.9	.8	1.0	2.0	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.5	.9	1.2
1956	.5	.6	.9	1.0	.7	.8							

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. 2/ Prior to January 1953, synthetics other than rayon and acetate were included with "other fibers."

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 12.- Production of woven carpets and rugs, United States, by months, 1946-56

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards
1946	3,678	3,499	4,003	4,552	4,322	4,387	3,734	4,375	4,479	5,611	4,550	4,814	52,004
1947	5,142	4,769	5,340	6,413	5,802	6,272	5,084	5,804	5,929	7,449	6,279	6,962	71,245
1948	6,828	7,136	8,718	7,699	7,486	8,648	4,881	7,285	8,335	7,794	7,102	7,728	89,640
1949	7,200	6,890	8,201	6,443	5,610	5,421	2,776	5,329	6,048	6,092	6,018	6,696	72,724
1950	6,635	6,802	8,073	7,087	6,998	8,129	4,061	7,153	7,689	7,942	8,024	7,148	85,741
1951	7,544	7,297	7,286	6,819	5,411	4,858	1,849	3,633	3,615	4,436	3,976	3,917	60,641
1952	5,252	4,973	5,445	5,861	5,051	3,057	2,512	4,562	5,775	7,254	5,904	6,442	62,088
1953	6,552	6,589	7,227	6,929	5,436	5,388	3,111	5,017	5,447	5,867	4,353	4,921	66,837
1954	4,759	5,076	5,663	5,024	4,264	4,344	2,374	4,565	5,169	5,093	4,101	4,883	55,315
1955	4,894	4,933	5,914	5,346	4,684	5,301	2,742	4,923	5,608	5,601	5,063	5,536	60,545
1956	5,362	5,847	5,968	5,575	5,473								

From Carpet Institute, Incorporated.

Table 13.- Production and manufacturers' shipments of tufted rugs and carpeting, United States, 1951-55

Year	Production		
	Scatter rugs, bathmats and sets (rugs 4 ft. X 6 ft. or smaller)	Rugs and carpeting, including roll goods (rugs larger than 4 ft. X 6 ft.)	Total
	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards	1,000 square yards
1951	15,070	6,076	21,146
1952	19,146	10,420	29,566
1953 January-June	10,587	6,976	17,563
	Manufacturers' shipments		
1953 July-December	12,224	9,309	21,533
1954	24,891	29,520	54,411
1955	30,278	46,253	76,531

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M 15S, Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.- Yarns consumed in the manufacture of tufted products, United States, 1951-55

Yarn	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Cotton	54.6	74.3	86.3	92.4	86.2
Rayon and acetate	1.0	2.2	7.9	31.4	69.2
Other	.3	.6	.4	3.3	12.2
Total	55.9	77.1	94.6	127.1	167.7

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M 15S, Bureau of the Census.

Table 15.- Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1949-56

Item	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Production 1/	2,163	2,223	2,307	2,341	2,541	2,555	2,608	2,730
Consumption	2,420	2,625	2,271	2,352	2,633	2,550	2,620	

1/ Production during the season beginning July 1 of the previous calendar year.

2/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Woolen and Worsted Fabric Production Increases

United States mills produced almost 82 million finished linear yards of woolen and worsted woven fabric (fabric principally wool, reused wool, or reprocessed wool by weight) during the first quarter of this year (table 16). This was about 11 percent above a year earlier and about 30 percent above early 1954, when output was at a postwar low.

Production of apparel fabric, about 78 million yards, was up 13 percent from 1955 and 43 percent from early 1954. Output of men's and boys' wear fabrics was up 5 percent and of women's and children's was up 23 percent from a year earlier. The increases relative to 1954 were about the same, 45 percent for men's and boys' wear and 42 percent for women's and children's wear. Output of worsteds for men's and boys' wear was up 17 percent from last year while output of woolen's was down 10 percent. For women's and children's wear, worsteds were up 56 percent while woolens were up only 18 percent.

Government orders accounted for about 0.8 million yards of apparel fabric, between 1 and 2 percent of the apparel total. The proportion has been rather small for the last 3 years.

Non-apparel fabric has not shared in the rather general rise in fabric output during the last 2 years. In contrast, output of this fabric has declined continuously since 1953. The first quarter 1956 output was 14 percent below a year earlier, 55 percent below 1954, and was only about one-fourth that of 1953. Only a part of the decline in this category, which consists chiefly of blanketing and upholstery, can be attributed to reduced Government orders. Synthetic fiber no doubt has been a major factor. The electric blanket has contributed to the decline in output of wool blanketing.

Mixed Trends in Cuttings Of Men's Tailored Clothing

During the first half of this year, 17 percent more summerweight suits and 8 percent more overcoats and topcoats were cut than during the first half of 1955 (table 17). Cuttings of regular-weight suits were down about 2 percent while cuttings of separate dress and sport trousers were about the same as last year. Cuttings of all categories were substantially above those of the first half of 1954.

Summer suits cut from wool fabric accounted for about 39 percent of all summer suits produced, a substantial recovery from the low of 28.3 percent in 1952 (table 18). On the other hand, wool fabric accounted for a smaller proportion of the separate dress and sports trousers than in 1955--30.6 percent compared with 33.2 percent. The low was 26.3 percent in 1953.

Table 16.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States, January-March 1952-56 1/

Fabric	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Percentage change 1956 from 1955
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	86,192	86,152	62,601	73,298	81,578	+11.3
Apparel	74,721	72,735	54,698	69,211	78,060	+12.8
Government orders	23,093	8,192	893	1,105	812	-26.5
Other than Government orders	51,628	64,543	53,805	68,106	77,248	+13.4
Men's and boys'	24,121	33,132	2/26,432	2/36,470	2/38,291	+ 5.0
Woolen	10,851	14,506	9,781	18,827	17,029	- 9.6
Worsted	13,270	18,626	14,978	15,898	18,594	+17.0
Women's and children's	27,507	31,411	2/27,373	2/31,636	2/38,957	+23.1
Woolen	22,712	26,719	21,402	25,798	30,370	+17.7
Worsted	4,795	4,692	4,074	3,413	5,331	+56.2
Non-apparel	11,471	13,417	7,903	4,087	3,518	-13.9
Blanketing	6,962	7,246	4,455	2,815	2,238	-20.5
Government orders	2,654	2,552	826	161	3/	---
Other than Government orders	4,308	4,694	3,629	2,654	3/	---
Other non-apparel	4,509	6,171	3,448	1,272	1,280	+ .6
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent
Woven felt	2,007	2,248	2,605	2,727	3,055	+12.0

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width.
2/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available.
3/ Not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 17.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, January-June 1954-56

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change 1956 from	
	1954 (26 weeks)	1955 (26 weeks)	1956 (26 weeks)	1954	1955
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	9,944	11,126	11,546	+16.1	+3.8
Regular-weight	6,782	7,995	7,874	+16.1	-1.5
Summer-weight	3,162	3,131	3,672	+16.1	+17.3
50 percent or more wool	1,176	1,159	1,434	+21.9	+23.7
Man-made fibers	1,863	1,807	1,989	+6.8	+10.1
Other	123	165	249	+102.4	+50.9
Separate dress and sport trousers	30,432	33,300	33,300	+9.4	0
50 percent or more wool	8,304	11,040	10,200	+22.8	-7.6
Other	22,128	22,260	23,100	+4.4	+3.8
Overcoats and topcoats	2,049	2,337	2,532	+23.6	+8.3

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 18.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1953-56

Type of garment	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Suits				
Regular-weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	90.2	---	---	---
Other	9.8	---	---	---
Summer-weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	30.7	37.2	37.0	39.1
Man-made fibers	66.0	58.9	57.7	54.2
Other	3.3	3.9	5.3	6.7
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	26.3	27.3	33.2	30.6
Other	73.7	72.7	66.8	69.4

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Mixed Trends in Cuttings of Women's, Misses', and Juniors' Outerwear

During January-June, manufacturers of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear cut 9 percent more coats, about 2 percent more skirts, and about the same number of unit-priced dresses as a year earlier (table 19). Their output of suits was down about 16 percent.

Cuttings from rayon and acetate fabric declined for all items for which information as to fiber content is available (table 20). Cuttings from fabric of other fiber either declined less than cuttings from rayon or acetate or increased.

Consumer Expenditures for Clothing Increased Last Year

Consumer personal expenditures for clothing last year are estimated to have totaled 16.8 billion dollars, an increase of a little more than 4 percent over 1954 (table 21). The total consisted of 10.8 billion dollars for women's and children's wear and 6.0 billion dollars for men's and boys' wear.

Table 19.- Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1955-56

Type of garment	1955	1956	Percentage change 1956 from 1955
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	83,807	83,792	0
Rayon and acetate	40,529	39,332	-3.0
Other	43,278	44,460	+2.7
Skirts	40,920	41,592	+1.6
Rayon and acetate	10,884	7,968	-26.8
Other	30,036	33,624	+11.9
Suits	8,077	6,763	-16.3
Rayon and acetate	3,660	2,840	-22.4
Other	4,417	3,923	-11.2
Coats	11,065	12,073	+9.1
Blouses	94,884	76,176	-19.7
Cotton	66,600	52,452	-21.2
Other	28,284	23,724	-16.1

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M67H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 20.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses' and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-June 1955-56

Type of garment	1955	1956
	Percent	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	48.4	46.9
Other	51.6	53.1
Skirts	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	26.6	19.2
Other	73.4	80.8
Suits	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	45.3	42.0
Other	54.7	58.0
Blouses	100.0	100.0
Cotton	70.2	68.9
Other	29.8	31.1

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M67H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 21.- Consumer personal expenditures for clothing, United States, 1935-39 average, 1946-55

Year	Expenditures for clothing				
	Women's and children's	Men's and boys'	Total	As percentage of-	
				Disposable income	Total expenditure
	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Percent	Percent
1935-39 average	3,305	2,158	5,463	8.25	8.59
1946	9,728	5,369	15,097	9.48	10.30
1947	9,963	5,647	15,610	9.24	9.46
1948	10,736	5,714	16,450	8.77	9.26
1949	9,929	5,442	15,371	8.17	8.51
1950	9,655	5,499	15,154	7.35	7.81
1951	10,275	5,811	16,086	7.12	7.72
1952	10,675	5,913	16,588	6.99	7.60
1953	10,603	5,747	16,350	6.53	7.09
1954	10,377	5,740	16,117	6.34	6.81
1955	10,806	6,007	16,813	6.21	6.62

Compiled from Survey of Current Business, United States Department of Commerce.

The increase last year was a little less than the increase both in disposable income and in total personal expenditures. Expenditures for clothing last year accounted for 6.21 percent of disposable income and 6.62 percent of total personal expenditures. The percentages have declined each year during the postwar period. Last year they were about a fourth below prewar and the lowest of record back to 1929.

DELIVERIES OF WOOL TEXTILE PRODUCTS TO THE MILITARY FORCES

by

Martin S. Simon and Frank Lowenstein

A new statistical series on deliveries of wool textile products to the military forces in the United States starts with this issue of The Wool Situation. Similar series are published for textile products made from manmade fibers. Data on deliveries of textile products are obtained on a quarterly basis from the Department of Defense. As published in this report, the data are in terms of the quantity of clean wool estimated to be required to produce these textile products. The series begin with the third quarter of 1954, the first period for which this information was made available to the Department of Agriculture.

Fiber equivalent of textile products was determined by using conversion factors, developed for this specific purpose, which take into account waste in manufacture and nonfiber content. Information on conversion factors, which was obtained from industry sources, is based to the extent possible on the actual product specification for the military item involved. In cases of blends, the series includes only that part estimated to consist of wool. Because the accuracy of the series on raw fiber equivalent depends in large part upon the accuracy of the fiber-product conversion factors, a continuing effort is being made to obtain all available relevant information. The series may be revised somewhat when better and more complete information is obtained. Although no substantial revisions are anticipated, the tentative nature of the series is to be emphasized.

The reports of the Department of Defense cover only textile items made primarily of fiber and do not include any items made primarily from other materials such as the upholstery part of new vehicles. Furthermore, the textile items reported by the Department of Defense as delivered to the military forces cover about 80 to 90 percent of the textile items actually delivered. To account for this underreporting, the fiber equivalent series are divided by 0.85. The end result is an estimate of the total fiber used in all textile items delivered to the military.

Table 22 shows the preliminary estimates of the raw fiber equivalent of wool textile items delivered to the military forces by quarter year beginning with the third quarter of 1954. The quantity of wool utilized by the military

forces varied from a low of about 285,000 pounds in the fourth quarter of 1954 to a high of about 3,321,000 pounds in the second quarter of 1955. Since that quarter, the raw fiber equivalent of deliveries of wool textile products to the military declined steadily and by the first quarter of 1956 was down to 1,231,000 pounds. In the first quarter of last year, however, this estimated quantity was only 424,000 pounds.

Table 22.- Wool used by the military forces: Clean basis, United States, by quarters, July 1954 to date

Year and quarter	Quantity
	1,000 pounds
1954	
July-September	291
October-December	285
1955	
January-March	424
April-June	3,321
July-September	2,835
October-December	1,932
Total	8,512
1956	
January-March	1,231

It should be pointed out that these figures, from a standpoint of time, are not directly comparable with published figures on mill consumption of wool. There would normally be a lag of a varying number of months between the time wool is consumed at the mill and the time it is delivered to the military forces in the form of textile products.

Comparable series on the raw fiber equivalent of deliveries of textile products made from cotton and from manmade fibers may be found in the July 1956 issue of The Cotton Situation.

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